GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services - Forest Department – Disciplinary action against Sri S.Ratna Kumar, Forest Range Officer (Retd) formerly Forest Range Officer Rampachodavaram Wildlife Management Division – Inquiry finalized and findings received - Imposition of penalty of 5% cut in pension for a period of one (1) year besides recovery of an amount of Rs.1,79,561/- (i.e.25%) against the Charged Officer - Show-cause Notice issued – Explanation received – Final orders - Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 16 Dated: 04-02-2016
Read the following:

1. From the Prl.CCF. Lr.Rc.No. 32751/2008/Vig-2, dt:31-12-2014.
2. Govt.Memo.No.139/Sec.IV/A1/2015-1,Dated:02-07-2015.
3. From the Prl.CCF. Ref No.32751/2008/Vig-3, Dt:28.07.2015.
4. Govt. Letter No.139/SEC.IV/A1/2015, Dated:07-11-2015.
5. From the Secretary, APPSC, Lr.No.934/DC&C/3/2015, dt.21.12.2015.

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ORDER:

In the reference 1st read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, A.P. Hyderabad has informed that an Article of Charge was issued against Sri S. Ratna Kumar, Forest Range Officer (Retd) formerly Forest Range Officer, Rampachodavaram Wildlife Management Division vide PCCFs Ref.No. 32751/2008/P1, dt.26.09.2011 under Rule 20 of APCS (CCA) Rules 1991, on the following counts:-

Article - I:- **"That he had exhibited gross negligence of duty in inspecting and check measurement of works resulting in irregularities and caused misappropriation of Government funds to a tune of Rs.9,55,137-00 in execution of works in the E.D.Cs"**

2. The Charged Officer acknowledged the Article of Charge on 17.11.2011 and submitted his explanation on 18.11.2011. Not satisfied with the explanation of the Charged Officer, the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests appointed the Conservator of Forests, (WLM) Eluru as Inquiry Officer and the Divisional Forest Officer, WLM Eluru Division as presenting officer vide PCCFs Proc. Nos. 32751/2008/P1(i)(ii), dt.06.12.2011(IO&PO).

3. The Prl.CCF has informed that the Conservator of Forests, WLM Eluru conducted the enquiry and submitted the findings vide Chief Conservator of Forests WLM Circle Eluru, Rc.No.858/2008/M2, dt.22.09.2014(findings). The Inquiry Officer findings were communicated to the charged officer vide PCCFs Ref.No.32751/2008/Vig-2, dt.19.10.2014.

4. The Inquiry Officer stated that the Charged Officer is responsible for misuse of Government money. The works were carried out by Beat officer concerned and then check measured by the Section Officers concerned. Therefore to make the loss good to the Government the above amount may be recovered from all the officers responsible as per G.M.No.6836/For.IV/04-4, dt.22.11.2005. As the Charged Officer is supervisory officer, 25% of the amount (Rs.7,18,243/-) i.e., Rs.1,79,561/- may be recovered from him apart from awarding the penalty as deemed fit as the charge is proved.

5. The Charged Officer submitted his further defense statement vide further defence statement of Sri S. Ratna Kumar, Forest Range Officer (Retd), dt.08.11.2014.

6. The Charged Officer retired from service on attaining the age of superannuation on 31.08.2010. Hence, the disciplinary proceedings are continued under Rule 9(1) of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

7. After careful examination of the matter, with reference to the findings of the Inquiry Officer, the remarks of the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, and material made available, it is observed that the charges framed against the Charged Officer are held proved and it is provisionally decided to impose a penalty of 5% cut in

pension for a period of one (1) year besides recovery of an amount of Rs.1,79,561/- (i.e.25%) from the pensionary benefits of Sri S. Ratna Kumar, Forest Range Officer (Retd) formerly Forest Range Officer, Rampachodavaram Wildlife Management Division, under rule 9 (1) of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

8. Accordingly a Show-Cause-Notice was issued to the retired officer vide reference 2nd read above. The Retired Officer has submitted his explanation to the Show-Cause-Notice through the reference 3rd read above in which he has agreed to the punishment.

9. Government, after careful examination of the matter hereby order to impose a penalty of 5% cut in pension for a period of one (1) year besides recovery of an amount of Rs.1,79,561/- (i.e.25%) from the pensionary benefits of Sri S. Ratna Kumar, Forest Range Officer (Retd) formerly Forest Range Officer, Rampachodavaram Wildlife Management Division, under rule 9 (1) of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

10. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, A.P. Hyderabad is requested to take action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

ASHWINI KUMAR PARIDA
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.
The Individual (through Principal Chief Conservator of Forests).

Copy to:
The Accountant General (A&E) A.P., Hyderabad.
The Director of Treasuries & Accounts, Hyderabad, A.P.
The Secretary, A.P. Public Service Commission, Hyderabad
(with ref. to Lr.No.934/DC&C/3/2015, dt.21.12.2015).
Sf./Sc.

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER